

62. (New) A concrete block splitter having a splitting line with which a work piece is aligned for splitting the work piece into at least two pieces, comprising a first splitting assembly including a plurality of projections disposed on at least one side of the splitting line, said projections being positioned so that they engage the work piece as it is split into the at least two pieces by the block splitter, whereby said first splitting assembly contributes to the formation of at least one irregular split edge and surface on at least one of the split pieces.

63. (New) The concrete block splitter of claim 62, wherein said first splitting assembly includes a splitting blade aligned with the splitting line.

64. (New) The concrete block splitter of claim 63, including a plurality of projections disposed on each side of the splitting blade.

65. (New) The concrete block splitter of claim 62, further including a second splitting assembly opposed to the first splitting assembly, said second splitting assembly including a plurality of projections disposed on at least one side of the splitting line, said projections being positioned so that they engage the work piece as it is split.

66. (New) The concrete block splitter of claim 65, wherein each of said first and second splitting assemblies includes a splitting blade aligned with the splitting line.

67. (New) The concrete block splitter of claim 66, including a plurality of projections disposed on each side of each of the splitting blades.

68. (New) The concrete block splitter of claim 64, wherein the plurality of projections and the splitting blade are fixed relative to each other during a splitting operation whereby said projections and said blade move simultaneously during the splitting operation.

69. (New) The concrete block splitter of claim 67, wherein the plurality of projections and the splitting blades are fixed relative to each other during a splitting operation whereby said projections and said blades move simultaneously during the splitting operation.

70. (New) The concrete block splitter of claim 63, wherein said splitting blade has a length, and said plurality of projections are adjacent said splitting blade along the length of said splitting blade.

71. (New) The concrete block splitter of claim 62, wherein the projections are cylindrical in shape.

72. (New) The concrete block splitter of claim 71, wherein said projections have rounded tips.

73. (New) The concrete block splitter of claim 71, wherein said projections have a diameter of between about 0.5 to about 1.25 inches.

74. (New) The concrete block splitter of claim 62, wherein said projections comprise plates.

75. (New) The concrete block splitter of claim 62, wherein said projections are pyramidal in shape.

76. (New) The concrete block splitter of claim 63, wherein said projections have a tip that is positioned about 0.375 inches above or below the top of the splitting blade.

77. (New) The concrete block splitter of claim 62, wherein said projections are adjustable.

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78. (New) The concrete block splitter of claim 64, wherein said projections on one side of the splitting blade are aligned with said projections on the other side of the splitting blade.

79. (New) The concrete block splitter of claim 64, wherein said projections on one side of the splitting blade are staggered with respect to said projections on the other side of the splitting blade.

80. (New) The concrete block splitter of claim 65, wherein said projections of said second splitter assembly are disposed on the same side of the splitting line as said projections of said first splitting assembly, and wherein at least a portion of an upper edge and at least a portion of a lower edge of one of the split pieces are roughened by the projections during the splitting operation.

81. (New) The concrete block splitter of claim 63, wherein said splitting blade is connected to a blade holder that includes a surface extending away from the splitting blade on each side thereof, the surfaces are each disposed at an acute angle relative to horizontal, and said projections are mounted on said surfaces.

82. (New) A concrete block splitter having a splitting line with which a work piece is aligned for splitting the work piece into at least two pieces, comprising a first splitting assembly that includes means for engaging the work piece at a plurality of spaced locations on at least one side of the splitting line as the work piece is split into the at least two pieces by the block splitter, said means for engaging contributing to the formation of at least one irregular split edge and surface on at least one of the split pieces.

83. (New) The concrete block splitter of claim 82, wherein said first splitting assembly includes a splitting blade aligned with splitting line.

84. (New) The concrete block splitter of claim 82, further including a second splitting assembly opposed to the first splitting assembly, said second splitting assembly including means

for engaging the work piece at a plurality of spaced locations on at least one side of the splitting line.

85. (New) The concrete block splitter of claim 84, wherein each of said first and second splitting assemblies includes a splitting blade aligned with the splitting line.

86. (New) The concrete block splitter of claim 83, wherein said splitting blade is connected to a blade holder that includes a surface extending away from the splitting blade on each side thereof, the surfaces are each disposed at an acute angle relative to horizontal, and said means for engaging are mounted on said surfaces.

87. (New) A concrete block splitter having a splitting line with which a work piece is aligned for splitting the work piece into at least two pieces, comprising a first splitting assembly that is configured to engage the work piece at a plurality of spaced locations on at least one side of the splitting line as the work piece is split into the at least two pieces by the block splitter, whereby said first splitting assembly distresses portions of at least one of the split pieces at locations spaced from the splitting line.

88. (New) The concrete block splitter of claim 87, wherein said first splitting assembly includes a splitting blade aligned with splitting line.

89. (New) The concrete block splitter of claim 87, further including a second splitting assembly opposed to the first splitting assembly, said second splitting assembly is configured to engage the work piece at a plurality of spaced locations on at least one side of the splitting line as the work piece is split into the at least two pieces by the block splitter, whereby said second splitting assembly distresses portions of at least one of the split pieces at locations spaced from the splitting line.

90. (New) The concrete block splitter of claim 89, wherein each of said first and second splitting assemblies includes a splitting blade aligned with the splitting line.

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91. (New) The concrete block splitter of claim 88, wherein said splitting blade is connected to a blade holder that includes a surface extending away from the splitting blade on each side thereof, the surfaces are each disposed at an acute angle relative to horizontal.

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92. (New) A concrete block splitter for splitting a concrete work piece into at least two pieces, comprising:

a first splitting assembly having a first splitting blade connected to a first blade holder, the first blade holder including a blade holder surface extending away from the first splitting blade on at least one side thereof, the blade holder surface being disposed at an acute angle relative to horizontal, and the blade holder surface is engageable with the work piece during the splitting operation wherein the blade holder surface distresses at least a portion of at least one of the split pieces.

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93. (New) The concrete block splitter of claim 92, including a second splitting assembly opposed to the first splitting assembly, wherein the second splitting assembly includes a second splitting blade connected to a second blade holder, the second blade holder including a blade holder surface extending away from the second splitting blade on at least one side thereof, the blade holder surface of the second blade holder being disposed at an acute angle relative to horizontal, and the blade holder surface of the second blade holder is engageable with the work piece during the splitting operation wherein the blade holder surface of the second blade holder distresses at least a portion of at least one of the split pieces.

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94. (New) A splitting assembly for use in a concrete block splitter having a splitting line with which a work piece is aligned for splitting the work piece into at least two pieces, comprising:

a plurality of projections disposed adjacent to the splitting line on at least one side thereof, said projections being positioned so that they engage the work piece during a splitting operation, whereby said projections contribute to the formation of at least one irregular split edge and surface on at least one of the split pieces.

95. (New) The splitting assembly of claim 94, further including a splitting blade aligned with the splitting line, and wherein said projections and said splitting blade are fixed relative to each other during a splitting operation whereby said projections and said splitting blade move simultaneously during the splitting operation and engage the work piece to split the work piece into the two pieces.

96. (New) The splitting assembly of claim 94, including a plurality of projections disposed on each side of said splitting line.

97. (New) The splitting assembly of claim 95, wherein said projections are adjustable relative to said splitting blade.

98. (New) The splitting assembly of claim 94, wherein said projections are cylindrical in shape.

99. (New) The splitting assembly of claim 98, wherein said projections have rounded tips.

100. (New) The splitting assembly of claim 98, wherein said projections have a diameter of between about 0.5 to about 1.25 inches.

101. (New) The splitting assembly of claim 94, wherein said projections comprise plates.

102. (New) The splitting assembly of claim 94, wherein said projections are pyramidal in shape.

103. (New) The splitting assembly of claim 95, wherein said projections have a tip that is positioned up to about 0.375 inches above or below the top of said splitting blade.

104. (New) The splitting assembly of claim 96, wherein said projections on one side of the splitting line are aligned with said projections on the other side of the splitting line.

105. (New) The splitting assembly of claim 96, wherein said projections on one side of the splitting line are staggered with respect to said projections on the other side of the splitting line.

106. (New) The splitting assembly of claim 95, wherein said splitting blade has a length, and said plurality of projections are adjacent said splitting blade along the length of said splitting blade.

107. (New) The splitting assembly of claim 95, wherein said splitting blade is connected to a blade holder that includes a surface extending away from the splitting blade on each side thereof, the surfaces are each disposed at an acute angle relative to horizontal, and said projections are mounted on said surfaces.

108. (New) A splitting blade assembly for use in a block splitter comprising:
a splitting blade; and
a plurality of projections positioned adjacent to said splitting blade on at least one side thereof, said projections and said splitting blade are fixed relative to each other during a splitting operation whereby said projections and said blade move simultaneously during the splitting operation.

109. (New) The splitting blade assembly of claim 108, including a plurality of projections positioned on each side of said splitting blade.

XNM 110. (New) The splitting blade assembly of claim 109, wherein said splitting blade is connected to a blade holder that includes a surface extending away from the splitting blade on

each side thereof, the surfaces are each disposed at an acute angle relative to horizontal, and said projections are mounted on said surfaces.

111. (New) The splitting blade assembly of claim 108, wherein said projections are adjustable relative to said splitting blade.

112. (New) The splitting blade assembly of claim 108, wherein said projections are cylindrically shaped.

113. (New) The splitting blade assembly of claim 112, wherein said projections have rounded tips.

114. (New) The splitting blade assembly of claim 112, wherein said projections have irregular tips.

115. (New) The splitting blade assembly of claim 112, wherein said projections have a diameter of between about 0.5 to about 1.25 inches.

116. (New) The splitting blade assembly of claim 108, wherein said projections comprise plates.

117. (New) The splitting blade assembly of claim 108, wherein said projections are pyramidal in shape.

118. (New) The splitting blade assembly of claim 108, wherein said projections have a tip that is positioned about 0.375 inches above or below the top of said splitting blade.

119. (New) A method of producing a concrete block having at least one irregular split edge and surface, comprising:

N providing a concrete block splitter having a splitting line with which a concrete work piece to be split is to be aligned, the block splitter including a first splitting assembly that includes a plurality of projections disposed on at least one side of the splitting line, said projections being positioned so that they engage the work piece during the splitting operation;

D *locating* a concrete work piece in the concrete block splitter so that the work piece is aligned with the splitting line; and

A splitting the work piece into at least two pieces using the first splitting assembly, wherein at least one of the split pieces is the concrete block having the at least one irregular split edge and surface.

120. (New) The method of claim 119, further including the step of providing the concrete block splitter with a second splitting assembly opposed to the first splitting assembly and operating in concert therewith, the second splitting assembly including a plurality of projections disposed on the same side of the splitting line as the projections of the first splitting assembly, said projections being positioned so that they engage the work piece during the splitting operation whereby the concrete block includes an opposed pair of irregular split edges.

121. (New) The method of claim 120, further including providing each of the first and second splitting assemblies with a splitting blade aligned with the splitting line and a plurality of projections disposed on each side of each of the splitting blades.

122. (New) The method of claim 121, wherein each said splitting blade and their respective said projections are fixed relative to each other during a splitting operation whereby said blades and their respective said projections move simultaneously during the splitting operation.

123. (New) The method of claim 119, wherein said projections of said first splitting assembly travel about 0.25 to 1.0 inches into the work piece.

124. (New) The method of claim 120, wherein said projections of said second splitting assembly travel into the work piece during the splitting operation.

125. (New) The method of claim 124, wherein said projections travel about 0.25 to 1.0 inches into the work piece.

126. (New) The method of claim 120, wherein said first splitting assembly is positioned to strike the top of the work piece and said second splitting assembly is positioned to strike the bottom of the work piece.